

EXPENDITURES OF THE ISTHMIAN CANAL COMMISSION.

---

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING,

IN RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF MARCH 2, 1901, A REPORT FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE, INCLOSING A COMMUNICATION FROM REAR-ADMIRAL JOHN G. WALKER, PRESIDENT OF THE ISTHMIAN CANAL COMMISSION, SHOWING THE SUM NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

---

MARCH 2, 1901.—Read, referred to the Committee on Inter-oceanic Canals, and ordered to be printed.

---

*To the Senate:*

I transmit herewith a report from the Acting Secretary of State in response to the resolution of the Senate of March 2, 1901, calling upon the Secretary of State for "an account, in detail, of the expenditures of the Isthmian Canal Commission, of which Admiral John G. Walker is president, up to date, and what sum, if any, is needed to complete the work of said commission and for what purposes the same is needed."

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,  
*Washington, March 2, 1901.*

---

The PRESIDENT:

In reply to the Senate resolution of March 2, 1901, calling upon the Secretary of State—

to send to the Senate an account, in detail, of the expenditures of the Isthmian Canal Commission, of which Admiral John G. Walker is president, up to date, and what sum, if any, is needed to complete the work of said commission and for what purposes the same is needed—

the undersigned, the Acting Secretary of State, has the honor to report that on account of the late hour at which this resolution is received, it

is impossible to procure from the Isthmian Canal Commission an account in detail of the expenditures up to date before the adjournment of the present session of the Senate.

As showing the sum needed to complete the work of the commission and the purposes for which it is desired, a copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral John G. Walker, president of the commission, is inclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted.

DAVID J. HILL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, March 2, 1901.*

---

ISTHMIAN CANAL COMMISSION,  
WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 12, 1901.*

SIR: The work of this commission upon the American Isthmus has been completed with the exception of certain portions of the Nicaragua route, between the Caribbean Sea and Lake Nicaragua, where boring parties, consisting of about 75 Americans and 400 natives, are still at work determining the character of the subsurface material which must be excavated to construct a canal, and of the foundations for locks and for the great dam across the San Juan River, the most important engineering work and the controlling feature of the enterprise.

It was hoped to have had this work completed before this date, but such work is slow, tedious, and expensive under the most favorable circumstances, and all these are exaggerated in a tropical and wild country like that portion of Nicaragua which is being investigated.

The appropriation for carrying on this work has been more than nine-tenths expended, and it is evident that the surveys and explorations can not be finished and a complete and exhaustive report made with the funds now on hand. It would be most unwise not to finish the work now so near completion in a thorough manner, as the investigations of this commission will be of inestimable value should the Government ever determine to construct a canal, and they must be completed before the work of construction can be entered upon. The force is on the ground, and therefore this work can now be done at a much less cost than at any future time.

I have, therefore, most earnestly to request that you call the attention of the chairmen of the Appropriation Committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives to this condition of affairs, and request that an appropriation of \$75,000 for the completion of this work, to be immediately available, be placed in the proper appropriation bill at the present session of Congress.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. WALKER,  
*President of Commission*

The SECRETARY OF STATE,  
*Washington, D. C.*